FBIS DAILY REPORT

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CONTADORA MEETING ENDS; BULLETIN ISSUED

PA171742 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 17 May 85 pp 1 A, 8 A

[Report by Roberto R. Rodriguez]

[Text] Indications are that all went well at the negotiations table; in the lobby of the hotel, where for 3 days the second meeting of plenipotentiary representatives of Central America and the Contadora Group was held, these representatives state that the discussions were of a technical nature, involving form and an exchange of views to reach agreements rather than discussions on content and fundamental aspects.

Nevertheless, Mexican Foreign Under Secretary Ricardo Valero said that the 3-day meeting "completely fulfilled its objectives, progressing in the determination on how to more precisely link the international community to the entire scope of the Contadora Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America."

It seems that each Central American representative was at a different meeting but, according to Valero, the results indicate that in the first meeting in April there was progress on verification and control mechanisms and in this second round there was progress on several chapters on security and politics, including the halt to arms trafficking and the presence of rebel forces that try to overthrow governments.

"Our version is that we progressed," the Mexican diplomat said, insisting that there was a "good orientation" and that therefore the meeting was neither "aborted nor frustrated" with regard to its effort to achieve a peaceful solution in the region. Valero told MATUTINO that during the meetings he found a "respectful dialogue," even though there were undoubtedly some natural differences, that permitted the gathering of views, observations, and recommendations -- some of which were immediately accepted while others must be discussed further.

For his part, Colombian Deputy Foreign Minister Guillermo Fernando de Soto agreed with his colleague in pointing out that progress was achieved in many aspects. He stressed the spirit of the participants in continuing the peace dialogue promoted by Panama, Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela. He also noted that there was some disagreement on security aspects regarding disarmament and the military balance, and that on political aspects there was some disagreement regarding the national reconciliation process which was rejected by Nicaragua and El Salvador. Nevertheless, Contadora has gathered all the comments and recommendations in order to "reconcile" them with formulas that are acceptable to all the countries in the area.

Fernando de Soto said that the meeting produced "fundamental" results on the basis of talks that open the door to the achievement of political solutions. Regarding the region's national reconciliation, he said that this is a topic that will continue to be analyzed in future meetings because it is considered essential.

Referring to the issue of reconciliation, Costa Rican Deputy Foreign Minister Jorge Urbina said that dialogue with the guerrillas in Nicaragua and El Salvador is important because they are the cause of national problems that affect the region. Urbina charged that Nicaragua is trying to revise a text approved a year ago by adopting the position of not wanting to hold a dialogue with the contras and maintaining that it must first speak with the contras' leader, President Ronald Reagan. At the same time, El Salvador is rejecting the possibility of dialogue with the insurgents because they are financed by foreign forces. Urbina said that "one either speaks with the guerrillas or one does not speak" but that one does not need to hold a dialogue with those who participate in a specific political system because that is a legislative function. [sentence as published]

Jorge Ramon Hernandez, the Honduran representative, disclosed that agreements have been reached on arms trafficking, the withdrawal of rebel forces, and the implementation of a system of direct communications in the region (red telephone).

The military balance and disarmament issues provoked the lengthiest discussions which caused the representatives to postpone any decisions.

Nicaraguan Victor Hugo Tinoco told the press that he has demanded the paralyzation of military maneuvers in the region because if this is not done Nicaragua cannot be asked to make greater efforts, since it is only reacting to these maneuvers. Nevertheless, he admitted that he observed an "apparent" political desire on the part of Honduras to reach an agreement within the Contadora framework.

At the end of the meeting, the Panamanian deputy foreign minister, accompanied by his counterparts Ricardo Valero of Mexico and German Navas Carrillo of Venezuela, read the following press bulletin concerning the 3-day meeting:

Information Bulletin

As announced by the Contadora Group, a new meeting of the plenipotentiary representatives of the Central American countries and the Contadora Group was held in Panama City on 14, 15, and 16 May 1985. Based on the advances made during the 11-12 April meeting, on this occasion the discussion of the agenda was completed, and all the work documents previously delivered by the Contadora Group were considered in order to obtain balanced solutions to the various subjects under negotiation.

The following issues were examined: topics concerning the commitments on the end of the arms race, foreign military presence, arms trafficking, fate of the rebel forces, systems of direct communications, and mixed security commissions, as well as some aspects concerning political commitments in the areas of detente, national reconciliation, and economic and social issues, including the participation of the Action Committee for the Economic and Social Development of Central America. In addition, the Contadora Group delivered new formulas on those topics which were not solved in the previous sessions, including a halt to the arms race as well as additional protocol projects that seek to guarantee the respect and support of the members of the international community to the commitments which the Central American governments will make in the Contadora Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America.

The meeting took into consideration the various factors that have recently contributed to worsening the regional crisis, the pronouncements of the Central American governments, including the Declaration of San Salvador dated 7 May 1985, and the pertinent resolutions of the UN Security Council and the SELA Latin American Council on 10 and 14 May, respectively.

The work sessions were encouraged by expressions of support from the international community for the Contadora Group's efforts, the call of the Central American governments for the prompt culmination of negotiations on the Contadora Document, as well as a call to the countries with ties and interests in the area so that they will make positive contributions that will facilitate the peace efforts. Said expressions once again recognize that Contadora is the adequate forum for discussing the Central American crisis.

By virtue of the stages which have been completed since January 1985, the Contadora Group, in consultation with the Central American governments, will shortly decide on the steps to be taken during the second half of June which allow advancement toward the conclusion of the negotiation process.

The particicants expressed their appreciation to Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias, who encouraged them with his attendance at the work sessions. In his inaugural message, the Panamanian foreign minister emphasized, among other things, the historical responsibility of the Central American rulers in view of the present political situation in which international peace and security are seriously threatened by the regional crisis.

Panama, 16 May 1985

Panama's Ardito Makes Statement

PA191322 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 18 May 85 pp A 1, A 14

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] Upon conclusion of the most recent Contadora Group meeting with the Central American plenipotentiary representatives, Panamanian President Dr Nicolas Ardito Barletta stated that although progress had need made in discussing the various points on the agenda, additional work is required, as well as understanding on all sides, in order to reach agreements. The president also stated the following:

"The civil war that led to Somoza's overthrow, the persistent Salvadoran war, and the recent insurrectional war in Nicaragua with its immediate repercussions on Honduras and Costa Rica seriously threaten peace in Central America and have merited the most serious consideration from Panama through the Contadora Group's conciliatory efforts.

"Our efforts, with the support of Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela, are about to produce positive and specific results. In recent months, however, developments show that the most belligerent and antagonistic groups have been unilaterally adopting measures that move them away from dialogue and collective understanding, such as seeking aid in aggressive blocs or economic strangulation. With all due respect to the principles of self-determination of peoples and sovereignty, as freely determined by each state, we must express our disagreement with the adoption of unilateral solutions that exacerbate the already grave Central American conflict. We deem it useful to reiterate our stance that joint dialogue and negotiation are the most suitable path to safeguard Central American peace, which is of such interest and concern to us."

"At this time, when a lack of communication and sufficient dialogue among the various participants in the Central American drama might make us lose 2 years of laborious efforts, we feel it is important to reiterate the urgent need to reach a Contadora agreement that duly fulfills the 21 objectives unanimously agreed on by all the Central American countries and other observer countries."

"We also reiterate the need to initiate a national reconciliation dialogue both in Nicaragua and El Salvador, and resume the contacts between the United States and Nicaragua in order to place their relations on more harmonious bases marked by mutual respect and security."

"A parallel movement along these three paths will enable the region to return to the road to peace, mutual respect, and shared security."

Costa Rica's Gutierrez Comments

PA171538 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 May 85

[Text] Contadora's technical meeting closes tonight. Despite a certain reserved atmosphere concerning the results of the Group's current meeting of plenipotentiary representatives in Panama City, it is felt that some advances have been made.

In general, the meeting has been difficult, according to a telephone conversation this morning between Costa Rican Foreign Minister Gutierrez and Deputy Foreign Minister Urbina Ortega. Not much has been advanced regarding implementation mechanisms, inventory deadlines, disarmament, and verification systems but, according to the minister, this does not mean the event failed, despite the existing difficulties.

The observations by El Salvador and Nicaragua concerning control mechanisms have not been discussed, but some advance has been made concerning various aspects of the implementation mechanisms. As for security, different views have been expounded, Foreign Minister Gutierrez added, indicating that Costa Rica feels it is important to stress the need for internal dialogue and national reconciliation. The Contadora Group has promised to present its views on this issue later. Further on, Gutierrez said that Contadora has acted as a filter because it has heard the various views, later formulating its own suggestions for reconciling all sides.

Before the meeting closes in Panama tonight, a date will be set for the next meeting, the foreign minister announced. As for this meeting, Gutierrez said that some advances have been made, but not enough to create a feeling of extreme optimism. Finally, he said that with regard to disarmament and the implementation mechanisms, several points included in the Tegucigalpa document must be settled, but the specific terms under which these aspects will be handled have not yet been defined.

Nicaragua's Tinoco on Results

PA171420 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 May 85

[Text] Contadora has made some advances in formulating the conditions for more important steps in the near future. The Honduran Government refused to receive a Contadora commission in the area bordering Nicaragua.

According to statements by Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco, the meeting of the Contadora deputy foreign ministers and their Central American colleagues has learned of the pronouncements by the UN Security Council and SELA condemning the U.S. trade embargo against Nicaragua. From Panama City, we now bring you an interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] In Panama City we interviewed Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco who will report to us on the conclusions of the Contadora Group meeting in Panama City. Go ahead, Companero:

[Tinoco] The Contadora Group has concluded this 3-day round of sessions. We managed to make some advances and approve some points concerning the security issue, as well as other secondary aspects of this issues. The other more basic issues regarding security, in other words [words indistinct] and the support of the country to the rebel forces is a topic of discussion for future meetings. Thus, this meeting prepares the conditions for more in-depth discussions in the near future.

[Reporter] Companero Tinoco, what was the reaction to Nicaragua's petition that a Contadora commission visit the Honduran-Nicaraguan border area to verify the actions of the counterrevolution?

[Tinoco] We did not receive an answer from the Honduran Government at the meetings, but in private talks we learned that the Honduran Government rejects the idea of a Contadora commission going to the border area between our two countries.

[Reporter] Does this mean the Contadora Group did not reach a consensus in order to give a specific reply to the Nicaragua Government?

[Tinoco] No, this means that the Honduran Government did not accept the proposal for dispatching a Contadora commission. This means that if there is a problem between countries and one of the countries asks the Contadora Group to send a commission, prior to doing so the Contadora Group must request the approval of both parties. In this case, the two parties are Nicaragua and Honduras. If Nicaragua makes the request, then Honduras would have to accept in order for a commission to be sent. In other words, Contadora cannot impose a commission on Honduras. Therefore, the Honduran Government's decision regarding the commission shows Honduras is responsible not only for the events that have occurred there due to the presence of the mercenary troops along the border area, but that the [words indistinct] events that might happen there.

[Reporter] How does the Nicaraguan Government describe this attitude by the Honduran Government?

[Tinoco] This is a negative attitude that is not understandable. There is no reason for a government that is presumably supporting the detente efforts in the area not to accept a peaceful initiative for peace. This means that there is something to hide in the area, probably the counterrevolutionary forces' camps which are the ones who are [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Companero Tinoco, was there a consensus of rejection by the Contadora Group of the U.S. economic blockade against Nicaragua?

[Tinoco] The (?general) information bulletin issued at the conclusion of the meeting mentions the UN Security Council resolution as well as the pronouncement by SELA, which met 1 week ago in Caracas. The bulletin carries the two pronouncements repudiating the measure. The SELA statement contains [words indistinct].

[Reporter] The presidency of the Republic issued a communique today pointing out that Nicaragua is pleased with the Honduran announcement that it will not permit mercenary groups in its territory, as well as the statements by Honduran Presidency Minister Ubodoro Arriaga that they will disarm the groups. What do you have to say on this?

[Tinoco] Yes. In fact, there were some statements by Honduran Secretary of the Presidency Ubodoro Arriaga in which he said that Honduras will take actions to disarm the counterrevolutionary mercenary groups in Honduran territory that operate against Nicaraguans. However, some international wire reports said later that Honduran Foreign Minister Paz Barnica denied the statements made by Honduran Secretary of State of the Presidency Ubodoro Arriaga and said that if that situation exists, they will use another measure. In other words, this gives the impression that this is a step back from the statements by the Honduran secretary of the presidency, reflecting internal Honduran contradictions, or indicating that pressures were exerted by the U.S. Government against the Honduran Government. Actually, if there was goodwill and they disarmed the counterrevolutionary groups, as the communique of the presidency of Nicaragua says, then this would be positive. [end recording]

Tinoco Blames U.S.

PA181952 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 May 85

[Text] Due to the lack of political willingness on the part of the United States expressed by Honduras' refusal to agree to a Contadora commission to visit the Nicaraguan-Honduran border, no agreements were reached on the security of the area, Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco announced tonight upon his arrival.

Tinoco described the meeting as somewhat positive, but said that only secondary issues were discussed. The presence of foreign military or of any rebel groups were not discussed, Deputy Foreign Minister Tinoco said. Tinoco added that Honduras' reasons for not accepting a Contadora commission to visit the Nicaraguan-Honduran border are that the counterrevolutionaries' camps are situated there, and that is why Honduras does not allow reporters in areas such as Trojes, Cifuentes, and Las Vegas.

Concerning the reports that modifications would be made to the Act of Peace and Commitments, Tinoco said that it is up to the Contadora Group and not the Central American countries so consider such changes, inasmuch as most of the modifications conceal plans to totally change the meaning of the Act. In conclusion, Tinoco announced that by the end of this month, Contadora will review all past actions by studying the various positions and agreements of the peacemaking group.

Colombian Minister on 'Rift'

PA192100 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 May 85

[Text] Just 24 hours ago it was said in Caracas that the Contadora Group is divided because Mexico had unilaterally signed a document censuring U.S. President Ronald Reagan's Nicaraguan policy. Today Colombian Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo denied that contention.

[Begin recording] The Contadora Group countries have always held a joint position because they operate by concensus. Therefore, there is no division, fissure, or schism in the Contadora Group. There is uniformity, unanimity, and unity. This was expressed just 2 days ago at a meeting in Panama. [end recording]

SELA CONDEMNS U.S. EMBARGO AGAINST NICARAGUA

PA151326 Paris AFP in Spanish 1056 GMT 15 May 85

[By Humberto Marquez]

[Text] Caracas, 15 May (AFP) -- Nicaragua today received firm support from Latin America and the Caribbean when the SELA Council in Caracas repudiated the trade and transportation embargo begun by the United States against that Central American country on 1 May. Chile was the only country that did not participate in the meeting due to differences with Managua over the political interpretation of the calling of the meeting.

The 24 states present, including Nicaragua's Central American neighbors and the Contadora Group (Mexico, Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela), unanimously approved the resolution of the Latin American council which was called to an urgent meeting at Nicaragua's request. Latin America also agreed to promote new forms of regional cooperaiton with Nicaragua and firmly supported the efforts of the Contadora Group for peace and development in Central America.

In addition to rejecting the embargo and other forms of U.S. coercion, Latin America revived the regional solidarity that had previously been expressed in 1982 when Argentina was affected by West European sanctions due to its conflict with Great Britain over the Malvinas Islands. The council reached the consensus early Wednesday morning after an exhausting session that was interrupted by a bomb scare at the SELA headquarters. In the end, objections and reservations to the text which had arisen among some Central American delegations were not submitted to the plenary session. In the fundamental section of the document, the SELA Council decided to:

1. "Reaffirm the sovereign right of all nations to take their own economic, social, and political path to peace and freedom, free of foreign pressures, aggressions, and threats."

2. "Reaffirm the SELA member states' condemnation of any coercive economic measures imposed against them that threaten their sovereignty, economic security, and their right to independent development."

3. "Repudiate the total trade embargo and the suspension of the services of the Nicaraguan airline and Nicaragua flag ships to the United States, which were decreed by the U.S. Government against Nicaragua." This "affects its economic and social development" and "causes a grave economic emergency."

4. "Repudiate the interference of any country in the administration and decisions of multilateral financial organizations for political reasons." This was based on charges of Washington's interference to halt credits to Nicaragua from the World Bank and the IDB.

5. "Declare that the adoption of coercive economic measures against any member state affects Latin American economic security and contributes, in this case, to increased tensions in Central America."

6. "Urge the U.S. Government to revoke the total trade embargo and other coercive measures adopted against Nicaragua." In addition, it requested that the U.S. Government "refrain from introducing political elements in the administration and decisions of the IDB, and from imposing on member states any measure that violates international principles and norms."

7. "Reiterate its conviction that dialogue and the search for negotiated formulas are essential elements for the maintenance of peace and security in Central America."

Diplomats in the halls of SELA stressed that Contadora was strengthened in the meeting since the text states:

8. "Stress that Central America's current circumstances make urgent the successful culmination of the Contadora Group's efforts...to achieve peace and safeguard co-existence in the region." This must be based on "Latin America's own independent view inspired by the principles of international law, particularly respect for self-determination, the sovereignty of states, the elimination of all foreign intervention, and the search for the region's economic and social development."

Lastly, in order to make its economic support for Nicaragua concrete, the council decided to:

"Instruct the SELA Permanent Secretariat so that, considering the evaluation and needs of the Nicaraguan Government, it will propose, with the cooperation of the Secretariat of the SELA Action Committee of Support for the Economic and Social Development of Central America, specific measures to the member states within 60 days."

It was unofficially reported that Latin America will try to help Nicaragua in essential imports for its subsistence and will try to absorb some of the exports that previously went to the United States.

ALFONSIN COMMENTS ON RETURN FROM URUGUAY VISIT

PY200024 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2322 GMT 19 May 85

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 19 May (TELAM) -- Shortly after returning from the city of Colonia, where he signed agreements and a joint declaration with his Uruguayan counterpart, Julio Maria Sanguinetti, President Raul Alfonsin tonight stated that we have achieved considerable progress in the area of integration with the sister Republic of Uruguay.

After reassuming the command of the executive branch he had delegated to Vice President Victor Martinez in the VIP room at the military air base of the Aeroparque Metropolitan Airport, Alfonsin stated that he had 2 days of intensive work in Uruguay and also the opportunity to exchange opinions with Uruguayan officials and with President Sanguinetti. He also said that he was overwhelmed by the warm welcome he recieved, which he stated he will never forget.

Regarding the visit of Brazilian Foreign Minister Olavo Setubal, President Alfonsin stated that it, too, has integration as its objective. He added that they will hold talks not only on subjects of a political nature but also on bilateral relations, concluding that such talks will have to be continued.

AFP RELEASES CAPUTO'S NOTE TO UN ON FALKLANDS

PY171710 Paris AFP in Spanish 1609 GMT 17 May 85

[Text] New York, 17 May (AFP) -- Today Argentina denounced at the United Nations British policy on the Malvinas by saying UK global strategic interests are contrary to the interests of Latin America and the world in the field of peace and security. Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has sent a note to the UN secretary general asking him to submit it to the Security Council. In this note, Caputo denounced British intentions as revealed by the recent dedication of a strategic airport on the Malvinas Islands. The note, of which AFP has been able to obtain a copy, will be officially released next week. The Argentine chief diplomat submitted that the new airport complements the warships and submarines with nuclear capability, missile installations, highly sophisticated radar systems, and 4,000 soldiers operating in the area.

According to Caputo, the UK argument in favor of the airport -- to enhance the economic development of the islands -- is indefensible because the British Defense Ministry has claimed for itself the exclusive use of the new landing strip and civilian flights are not authorized. He added that this attitude is in keeping with British policy, which has always placed strategic considerations ahead of the social progress and prosperity of the islands.

Caputo met with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on 16 May and today he will address the representatives of 101 nonaligned countries to denounce what he has defined as a hostile attitude of the British Government.

The Argentine foreign minister also refuted British claims that the airport will allow a reduction of forces stationed on the island by stating that Lord Trefagne, British under secretary of state for defense, has indicated that no substantial reduction of these forces is foreseeable in the near future. Caputo stated that neither can it be said in good faith that the airport seeks to prevent eventual Argentine attacks because the Argentine Government has publicly promised to resort to peaceful means only in its quest for the recovery of its sovereignty over the islands.

The day before Caputo had stated [at the OAS] that Argentina is willing to negotiate with Great Britain. Caputo said in his note to the United Nations that this is still true despite the rash manner in which London is handling this issue and the obstinate refusal of the British Government to acknowledge the crucial political changes which have taken place in Argentina. The note concludes by saying that the Argentine Government cannot fail to point out the risks posed by the sustained refusal of the British Government to comply with the resumption of bilateral negotiations as ordered by the UN General Assembly.

Caputo on 'Draft Resolution'

PY182220 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2055 GMT 18 May 85

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 18 May (NA) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo today announced that the Argentine Government is going to submit within 10 days to the OAS Permanent Council "a draft resolution" denouncing the inauguration of the British military airport on the Malvinas Islands. In declarations made at the Ezeiza International Airport after arriving from the United States where he spoke on this issue at the OAS and the UN, Caputo said that Argentina discards the mechanisms of the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty (TIAR) as the "path to find peace" in the conflict with the UK.

Caputo reiterated his strong criticism of the government of Margaret Thatcher for her position on the Malvinas. He said that "they have made the South Atlantic an area of interest of all the superpowers." Caputo pointed out that "the problem of sovereignty in the South Atlantic makes Argentina insist on its claims" which have now "been offended by the inauguration of a strategic airport" built by the British Government. He said that "this unpleasant event creates a strategic zone which makes even more difficult the negotiation process over the Malvinas conflict." Caputo labeled the British attitude as "a real threat to the peace and the security of all of South America."

CENTRAL BANK FREEZES FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS

PY181619 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0241 GMT 18 May 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 May (TELAM) -- The Central Bank tonight ordered that foreign currency deposits be frozen for 120 days. This measure was announced in an official communique released a little before midnight after a lengthy meeting of the Central Bank board, and it is attributed to explicit orders from the Economy Ministry. The communique, which given the urgent nature of its publication after 2300 is not numbered, reads as follows:

The Central Bank of the Argentine Republic reports that, following precise instructions from the Economy Ministry, it has decided to freeze all foreign currency deposits for 120 days. This measures affects both the collection of new deposits and the reimbursements of deposits that are falling due. This measures is adopted in defense of the savers and of the community as a whole, the normal functioning of which depends essentially on the permanence of a solid financial system. This measure is also intended to overcome the situation created by the considerable withdrawals of foreign currency deposits over the past few weeks, which as demonstrated by the recent international experience, endangers the stability of any financial system. If on the due date of his deposit a saver decides not to renew his deposit, he will be granted the option, as an exception to this rule, to use the funds to underwrite the 1984 issue of external bonds. Moreover, the financial organizations will be able to reach an agreement with their clients on the purchase of these bonds in the future at prices similar to those at the time of the underwriting.

FOREIGN MINISTER VIEWS U.S. SENATE RESOLUTION

PY181532 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 May 85

[Text] Bolivian Foreign Minister Edgar Camacho Omiste has been questioned by the press on the Bolivian Government's position on the resolution issued by the U.S. Senate conditioning economic aid to the country to a 10-percent reduction in coca leaf production. Answering reporters, the foreign minister stated that the official report requested from our embassy in Washington has not yet been received.

[Begin recording] We are still awaiting an official note from the United States. As you know, the interior and planning ministers and I have talked with U.S. Ambassador Edwin Corr, but we have not yet received an official report from our ambassador, Mariano Baptista Gumucio. Of course, we are following this problem with concern and interest. We are only awaiting the arrival of additional information so we can adopt a government position in this regard. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

The reporters asked whether the report released by the interior minister, that the aid reportedly disbursed by the United States for the struggle against drug trafficking does not reflect what the country really received, has been approved,

[Begin recording] Yes, we have discussed this matter with the interior minister. We evaluated and considered it thoroughly, but [passage indistinct]. [end recording]

Those were remarks Foreign Minister Edgar Camacho made to Radio Panamericana. He said that the government is still awaiting an official report on the U.S. Senate's decision regarding a proposal to condition aid to our country to a reduction in coca leaf production.

PLANNING MINISTER REMARKS ON ECONOMIC MEASURES

PY172125 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 May 85

[Excerpts] Planning and Coordination Minister Freddy Justiniano, in his role as head of the economic team, and in answer to some questions posed by Bolivian reporters at Government Palace on the latest economic measures, stated that the changes and adjustments adopted have been necessary to improve the national economy.

[Begin recording] The press will be able to inform the people on this subject. Obviously some of the changes to take place in some sectors are not of an immediate nature. The changes that will take place in electrical service and other services such as water do not yet affect the people. They will surely affect them gradually, to the extent in which the flexible salary scale is implemented. Of course, the measures adopted are quite necessary, although I can reiterate that they cannot be considered an economic package. These changes are necessary to balance our economy [passage indistinct].

Regarding other reports that the Bolivian central bank will not allow the implementation of these measures, I can say that this is absolutely absurd, because the increase in fuel prices has already been implemented, and within the next few days and weeks we are going to take the appropriate measures to try to solve any problems within the economic area in general. This is the main reason that has led us to adopt these measures. [end recording]

Asked whether new devaluations will be implemented in the country, Justiniano stated:

[Begin recording] [Justiniano] Some changes will have to be adopted, and should this be the case there will be more devaluations, and then we will prepare other modifications that must be implemented.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, what measures will be adopted to prevent speculation and this chaotic situation existing in the country regarding prices?

[Justiniano] I understand the interior, and industry and commerce ministers have ordered the appropriate controls over the weekend with the support of [words indinstinct]. [end recording]

BANK WORKERS STRIKE TO PREVENT DEVALUATION

PY171913 Paris AFP in Spanish 1719 GMT 17 May 85

[Excerpt] La Paz, 17 May (AFP) -- The Bolivian Central Bank Workers Union today decided to go on a 24-hour strike so as not to implement the 50-percent devaluation of the Bolivian peso vis a vis the U.S. dollar, which the government ordered yesterday. This decision was made upon request from the powerful Bolivian Labor Federation (COB), which has strongly opposed government measures harmful to the already shaky economy while precluding the implementation of a minimum salary with an escalator clause.

In view of this situation, the teachers will also continue their strike because the government had promised to pay their April salaries today.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES SUSPEND HUNGER STRIKE

PY161400 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 May 85

[Text] The problem raised by the public servants has been overcome. The Democratic and Popular Unity Government has decided to approve the demands made by the public servants for salary increases and has granted them a raise in salary rates and the [word indistinct] wage. For their part, the public employee union leaders have decided to suspend the voluntary hunger strike, which was held for more than 2 weeks. The suspension of the strike took place today, Wednesday, at 1900.

Planning and Coordination Minister Freddy Justiniano delivered the letter of approval to the specific demands to the union leaders of the public servants.

PLAN FOR TECHNICAL AID TO NICARAGUA ANNOUNCED

PY171644 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1519 GMT 17 May 85

[Text] Porto Alegre, 17 May (EFE) -- In July this year Brazil will launch a plan to help Nicaragua by sending 11 Brazilian agricultural and industrial experts. This plan, which will cost approximately $100,000 and will be channeled through the Sao Paulo government, it was disclosed in Porto Alegre by economist Walter Hahn.

Walter Hahn, director of the agroindustrial program the FAO is carrying out together with the Nicaraguan Government, stated that the Brazilian experts will stay in Nicaragua for several months to advise in several fields of agroindustrial development. Brazilian corporations will be able to participate in this plan by sending spare parts for a Nicaraguan agroindustrial park currently affected by the U.S. trade embargo.

This agreement, which is part of the FAO-sponsored program for technical cooperation between developing nations, was signed by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega when he visited Brazil on the occasion of the presidential inauguration on 15 March.

Walter Hahn concluded by saying that in order to resolve the problems created by the U.S. trade embargo, Nicaragua will purchase from friendly countries parts that these countries will buy in the United States. Hahn added that Mexico has already announced its willingness to import U.S. equipment in order to resell it to Nicaragua and reported that the Brazilian Government has promised to send 500 kg of soybean seeds, which have been donated by the Brazilian Agriculture Ministry.

FRG ECONOMY MINISTER CONCLUDES BRASILIA VISIT

PY170320 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2133 GMT 16 May 85

[Text] Brasilia, 16 May (EFE) -- FRG Economy Minister Martin Bangemann has stated in Brasilia that the FRG accepts the holding of political dialogue with the Latin American countries to solve the problems of the foreign debt. However, Bangemann dismissed the possibility of concluding a new international economic order in the near future because the strength of the dollar is a real fact that is being acknowledged by the international community.

Bangemann justified the standing of the countries that make up the Cartagena Consensus, countries that are proposing that a political dialogue be held to seek solutions to the foreign debt issue. Nevertheless, the FRG minister stated that that dialogue must take place within the boundaries of the existing multilateral organizations, such as the IMF and the Paris Club.

Bangemann reported that the FRG Government endorses the renegotiation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) next year within a multilateral spirit, and opposed the intentions of the U.S. to substitute that international organization by making bilateral agreements. The bilateral agreements have disadvantages, the minister, who today concluded a 2-day visit to Brasilia, commented.

Bangemann also announced the FRG's support for the democratic efforts of the Brazilian people, efforts that will enjoy German cooperation in the economic field. In addition, Bangemann endorsed the restoration of democracy in the Latin American countries.

SARNEY PLANS VISITS TO URUGUAY, COLOMBIA, U.S.

PY172135 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1652 GMT 17 May 85

[Excerpts] Brasilia, 17 May (EFE) -- Brazilian President Jose Sarney today announced that he has accepted an invitation from his Uruguayan counterpart Julio Maria Sanguinetti to pay an official visit to Montevideo in June. Government House sources have told EFE that the Brazilian Foreign Ministry will be charged with organizing the president's first trip abroad.

Furthermore, this week Sarney received an invitation from his Colombian counterpart Belisario Betancur to visit Bogota before the end of the year, and Government House plans include Sarney's probable trip to New York in September to address the UN General Assembly.

FINANCE MINISTER ON FOREIGN DEBT NEGOTIATION

PY180145 Rio de Janiero O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 May 85 p 18

[Excerpts] Brasilia -- New York will no longer be the forum for any eventual litigation with creditor banks concerning the foreign debt renegotiation agreement. The creditor banks accepted this request made to them last week by Finance Minister Francisco Dornelles. Minister Dornelles said that he had told the Bankers' Foreign Debt Advisory Committee that since the current government is not authoritarian, no agreement on the renegotiation of the foreign debt will be signed without congressional approval.

The minister informed the leaders of the Democratic Alliance of the basic proposals for the renegotiation of the foreign debt with the IMF and the creditor banks: longer pay-back periods (16 years), longer grace periods (7 years), and lower interest rates.

STRIKES CAUSE SERIOUS BALANCE OF TRADE LOSS

PY180333 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0230 GMT 18 May 85

[Text] Finance Minister Francisco Dornelles has said that the strikes being staged in Sao Paulo, particularly by the metalworkers, will cause the May balance of trade surplus to drop by $200 million because of the failure of Brazilian industrial companies to ship orders placed by foreign customers. The loss is considered unrecoverable. The strikes have affected the exportation of cars, transport equipment, and replacement parts.

The Foreign Trade Department has reported that the Sao Paulo strikes have inflicted a $160 million loss on the April balance of trade surplus.

DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSIGNED HUMAN RIGHTS CASES

PY080125 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 6 May 85 p 5

[Text] Brasilia -- Attorney General Jose Paulo Sepulveda Pertence has announced that he has assigned Federal District Attorney Joao Pedro Saboia Bandeira de Mello Filho to look into human rights cases in Rio de Janeiro State.

The district attorney will be charged with receiving and investigating these reports as soon as possible, with taking the appropriate measures, and with submitting reports to the attorney general. For his part, the attorney general will submit these reports for the consideration of the Council for the Defense of Human Rights (CDDH), which is subordinated to the Justice Ministry. The CDDH will be reorganized to conform to the new republic, Justice Minister Fernando Lyra said, to avoid distortions such as those that have taken place since 1971, when the number of CDDH members was increased, but the council stopped operating.

Sepulveda has said that from now on a federal district attorney will be assigned in each state and in the federal district to be alert and to take actions to make effective the joint effort against violence.

Sepulveda also announced the appointment of Carlos Vitor Muzzi as district attorney for Minas Gerais State and that he had offered Guilherme Magaldi Ribeiro the post of district attorney for the Federal District, but Magaldi has not yet formally accepted. He noted that in 30 days all district attorneys should submit a report on the operational needs in their respective areas. Our resources are meager, Sepulveda said, but we will try to start working during the first half of this year. He added that the presence of the attorney general on the CDDH board "can be justified by the fact that it is his main responsibility to safeguard the legal system and the basic interests of society, notably an effective protection of basic human rights."

Carlos Vitor Muzzi, federal district attorney for Minas Gerais State, has said that it will be up to each district attorney to solve those cases that can be solved within the state and to transfer to Brasilia all those cases that are serious enough that they should be solved in the federal capital.

Muzzi has already been linked to human rights defense since he has worked for the Pastoral Commission and has been teaching at the recently created Human Rights Department in the Minas Gerais Catholic University.

PAULO MALUF TO RUN FOR SAO PAULO STATE GOVERNOR

PY171647 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 17 May 85

[Excerpt] Yesterday Deputy Paulo Maluf reported to party members that he will be the Social Democratic Party [PDS] candidate for governor of Sao Paulo State next year. He will reportedly begin his political campaign next month.

OFFICIAL SAYS EMBARGO WILL NOT DIVIDE CONTADORA

PA172200 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 May 85

[Text] The Contadora Group countries' position regarding the U.S. embargo on Nicaragua is that the embargo is not a motive for division or estrangement among the various governments, new Deputy Foreign Minister Guillermo Fernandez de Soto said today when he was sworn in. He discarded the possibility of a crisis within the negotiating group due to the embargo. Fernandez de Soto is replacing Laura Ochoa de Ardila, who has been designated ambassador to Guatemala.

M-19 ANNOUNCES MEDIATION AGREEMENT WITH CHURCH

PA182359 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2228 GMT 18 May 85

[By Roberto Rojas Monroy]

[Text] Bogota, 18 May (EFE) -- The "19 April Movement" (M-19) of Colombia today announced an agreement with the Catholic Church to secure the "restoration of the truce" signed with President Belisario Betancur's government in 1984. A guerrilla spokesman announced that the "M-19" reached an agreement with Apostolic Nuncio Angelo Acerbi and Msgr Dario Castrillon, bishop of Pereira and president of the Latin American Episcopal Conference (CELAM), establishing that the church will mediate between the rebels and the authorities.

"So that the peace process will produce the desired effects, it is necessary for the church to mediate for a restoration of the truce," Gerardo Ardila, member of the guerrilla group, stated. Ardila said that "the Army is the one that breaks the truce." He requested the urgent presence of the Cease-Fire Verification Group in the Magdalena region of Valle del Cauca Department in the western part of the country, which has been the scene of fighting over the past weeks. The M-19 leader admitted that the guerrillas had downed a helicopter, "but not as it was going to pick up wounded persons, as the military reported."

Last Saturday, 11 May, an "M-19" column and troops of the "Palace" Battalion headquartered in Buga engaged in a clash in which nine soldiers and four rebels were killed. Sporadic clashes continued this week and the 3d Army Brigade based in Cali deployed six battalions to Magdalena with the purpose of hemming in the guerrillas. The counterinsurgency actions are directed by the commanders of the 3d Army Division, Major General Pedro Nel Molano Vanegas, and of the 3d Army Brigade, General Fernando Gomez Barrios.

The military and "M-19" spokesmen accuse one another of "violating the truce."

Former Minister John Agudelo Rios, president of the Peace Commission, affirmed that on Tuesday a delegation will go to the site of the confrontations, a region of the central mountain range, to make an on-the-spot inspection.

According to Ardila, the clashes began last week when "a group of our companeros were bathing in a creek and the Army arrived, killing two and capturing nine. In view of this open action of aggression we were forced to respond." The rebel leader added that the clashes ended when a military helicopter was downed and several wounded soldiers were turned over to peasants in the region. "It is urgent and necessary that the truth be told in these cases because otherwise the peace process will fail," Ardila remarked.

NAVY MINISTER LEAVES FOR U.S., ITALY, UK

PY182217 Paris AFP in Spanish 1623 GMT 18 May 85

[Text] Lima, 18 May (AFP) -- Peruvian Navy Minister Vice Admiral Jorge Dubois Gervasi today left on an official mission for Washington, Rome, and London, a Navy Ministry spokesman reported in Lima today.

Dubois, who will discuss matters under his jurisdiction with high-ranking U.S., Italian, and British officials, has said that problems are being encountered in the patrolling of Peruvian territorial waters, which have great fishing resources. The minister remarked that even though the Peruvian Navy only has a few patrol boats, it carries out daily and permanent patrol missions.

After pointing out that the country cannot afford to buy more patrol boats because of the lack of financial resources, the minister noted that on several occasions small foreign fishing ships have been seized in Peruvian waters, and that they were later released after fines were collected. However, the minister did not reveal the dates that the seizures took place nor the countries to which the ships belonged. No seizures have been reported lately.

STATE WORKERS STAGE 24-HOUR PROTEST STRIKE

PY171654 Lima Cadena America Television in Spanish 0415 GMT 17 May 85

[Excerpt] The Intersector Confederation of State Workers, CITE, today launched a 24-hour strike. CITE claimed strike participation was 100 percent. The state-run ANDINA News Agency refuted this claim and reported that the strike is being only partially obeyed. Some clashes between policemen and demonstrators took place during the day. The strike was called to protest the collective labor agreements the government signed after the latest general indefinite strike.

UNITED LEFT PARTY NOT TO RUN IN ELECTION

PY171304 Paris AFP in Spanish 2154 GMT 16 May 85

[Excerpt] Lima, 16 May (AFP) -- Senator Enrique Bernales, a United Left (IU) leader, today stated that the Marxist alliance will not run in a runoff election to elect the new Peruvian Government. We have quit, and the (National Electoral) Board cannot force us because that would be like putting a pistol to our heart and telling us: You are the candidates, Bernales stated.

The elections held on 14 April were won by the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance [APRA] party, which got nearly 47 percent of the votes without reaching an absolute majority as mandated by the Peruvian Constitution. The Marxists, which got 22 percent of the votes, announced their intention not to run in a runoff election.

Bernales, who was the first vice presidential candidate of the Marxist ticket led by Alfonso Barrantes, said that the IU will not run in a runoff election not because it fears a defeat by a wider margin, but because of its sense of historic responsibility as the second ranked political force in Peru.

ARGENTINE PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR 2-DAY VISIT

PY182020 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2015 GMT 18 May 85

[Text] Colonia, 18 May (TELAM) -- Argentine President Raul Alfonsin arrived in this Uruguayan city at 1700 today. Alfonsin will meet with Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti on 18 and 19 May. Alfonsin left Buenos Aires from the military sector of the Jorge Newbery Metropolitan Airport at 1640 local time.

Calls for Unity

PY200039 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 19 May 85

[Speech by Argentine President Raul Alfonsin from the balcony of the Colonia City Hall, after meeting with President Julio Maria Sanguinetti; broadcast in progress -- live]

[Text] ...First of all, I want to express my thanks on behalf of the Uruguayan people for the warm welcome I received, which I will always remember. [applause, shouts] We all know, both you people who are in the audience and we who are here on this balcony, that there is no need for special ceremonies to guarantee brotherly coexistence among the peoples of the River Plate Basin. Throughout history, we have been united as brotherly nations, we have confronted difficulties and vicissitudes together, and we have always worked together seeking to enhance man's dignity, which can be achieved only through the democratic institutions.

Today, however, we are adding something new to this long-standing brotherhood. Today is a special day because our dreams have come true: The peoples of Uruguay and Argentina now not only share the same ideals but also the same type of government because we both enjoy democratic institutions [applause, shouts] and because only in this manner have we been able to take this important step that will strengthen the development possibilities of our countries, even in difficult times such as the ones we are now living through. This is how it happens at times in Latin America, when the people and the men elected by the people must resolve the big mess and the problems left behind by authoritarianism. [applause, shouts]

President Sanguinetti and I have assumed this responsibility after a thorough assessment of the situation. We had to take into account the real situation in accordance with our own possibilities, discovering the need for our efforts, but equal efforts, because there will be no one with privileges, as democracy makes us all equals. [applause]

Uruguay and Argentina have agreed to something important. We have agreed to mutual concessions to move integration and bilateral trade forward. We will strengthen our brotherhood in a common task to overcome the crisis, but a task that goes beyond the need to overcome the crisis. The mission we are undertaking is much more important, because it is a mission assumed by the peoples and the democracies of Uruguay and of Argentina. We are going to build two countries for our children [applause, shouts] so that they can live in freedom and dignity. [shouts, applause]

What we are doing here today is extremely important, because it goes beyond our respective borders. We are proclaiming throughout Latin America and the world that we do not want aggression and that we do not encourage hatred, but that we are definitely ready and resolutely prepared to accept our responsibility in the international community in the quest for universal justice [applause] and in the quest for a new international economic order. [applause, shouts]

I want to especially thank the mayor of this city for his kindness in granting me the keys of the city. I know this is a symbol, but a symbol I fully appreciate. This gesture, Mr Mayor, was in fact unnecessary, because for Argentina this city has no keys. It is a city open to the brotherhood of our peoples. [applause, shouts]

We have had two days of important meetings with the president of Uruguay. We have discussed problems concerning the various agreements our ministers have just signed. But we have also discussed other subjects, because we do not lack foresight, and because we have no inferiority complexes, and because we want the Argentine and Uruguayan voices to be heard in all international forums throughout the world. [applause]

Thus, in unity, joining equal forces, we will forge ahead, convinced that only our unity will make us strong and that to be effective in the reparative struggle which we must undertake we need, above all else, the unity of Latin America. Thank you very much. [applause]

Sanguinetti Supports Call

PY200052 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2110 GMT 19 May 85

[Speech delivered by President Julio Maria Sanguinetti from the balcony of the Colonia, City Hall, following a speech by Argentine President Raul Alfonsin -- live]

[Text] Mr Vice President of the Uruguayan Republic, Messrs Ministers, Mr Mayor of the city of Colonia, citizens, friends, friendly President: A little over 150 years ago, Artigas [Uruguayan national hero], who was an officer in the Blandengues Regiment and who also was a deserter from the royal forces, left this City of Colonia to join the Junta de Mayo and begin in this area of the Americas the revolution of freedom, the revolution of independence, the revolution that gave birth to our two Republics.

One hundred and fifty years later we are in the same city to declare that the same peoples who united in the past to win their independence and freedom have united today. They have united today to declare that the political independence that we won in the past today once again calls for our efforts, for our revolutionary efforts, and for our unity, so that our political independence can also guarantee our socioeconomic independence. [shouts, applause]

We must unite to tell our peoples that the political aspect is not enough. Today more than ever, in a world of blocs, in a feudalist world, in a world of selfishness, in which the confrontation between empires has placed upon our countries the burden of an unfair commercial order, political democracy should also guarantee social democracy. This commercial order has caused the prices of all our products to drop. Over the past few years, losses in our meat and grain products, and in the work of our people, in our factories, and in our agricultural areas have run as high as 20 or 25 percent. How can we face this situation? We will undoubtedly fail to cope with it if we are divided; we will only succeed if we are united. Our solidarity should overcome disintegration. We should oppose the blocs that dominate world trade with the power of a Latin American Continent united by increasingly closer ties.

This objective will only be achieved if those who were born united joint their efforts. This will only be achieved through the integration of peoples like the Argentine and Uruguayan peoples, who were born united, who have grown united, and who will remain united without excluding anyone, because we will welcome everyone to this crusade. [shouts, applause] This task is not to be fulfilled exclusively by our two nations. It will not exclude anyone, either. We are strengthening our unity to call for Latin American unity.

Mr President, you saw the joy of the Colonia people on the streets, and you are seeing it here. It is an expression of appreciation for your people. It is an expression of affection for your country and for you. But the people are conveying something else. [shouts, applause] The faith and joy of the people who are here tell us that they do not want us to be separated, because the people want to see democratic presidents united in a joint struggle to solve common problems and to defend common interests, moving forward with joint hopes and faith. [shouts, applause] The people do not want to see us separated.

Sectorial interests, selfish attitudes, narrow-mindedness, and misguided approaches that do not take this integration process into account will be sidelined by our conscientious struggle. We shall struggle to promote industrial growth, trade, tourism, and the energy sector in order to create new jobs, because with more jobs there will be more freedom, and our freedom will thus be strengthened. [applause, shouts]

There is no doubt that there are risks involved in taking these steps. However, there are people who are willing to take risks. There is no doubt that bold steps should be taken, but we must have faith in taking these steps. We must face skepticism with hope, selfishness with solidarity. This is how we must face all interests opposing our goals. We are the ones who have to make this decision. We no longer have to resort to the rhetoric of integration, which is already obsolete, but to the concrete steps we have already taken here, steps which mark not the end but the beginning of the great historic achievements to be accomplished. [applause]

Friends of Colonia, we have experienced here on the streets with you an historic event in the integration process of our peoples. With your presence, you are showing your approval of the meaning of these agreements, the meaning and prospects of these agreements. No particular interest of any kind can cast a shadow over or weaken the force of these agreements. Based on these agreements, we can move ahead. We have a commitment with the history of our peoples.

Our sovereignties cannot be strengthened by isolating them. We cannot fight poverty by isolating ourselves within our own borders. On the contrary, our sovereignties can be strengthened by enlarging them, by making the sum of the sovereignty of the two countries, Uruguay and Argentina, and all of Latin America become a great economic, social, and moral force in the world. [applause] This is the way to strengthen sovereignty. This is how a country can be built, this is how Latin American can be built.

Long live the Argentine Republic! Long Live Uruguay! Long live a democratic and united Latin America! [applause, shouts]

Presidents Hold Press Conference

PY200259 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2120 GMT 19 May 85

[Press conference with local and international reporters by Argentine President Raul Alfonsin and President Julio Maria Sanguinetti in Colonia, after signing several bilateral agreements and a joint declaration -- live]

[Excerpts] [Efrain (Marice), of BUSQUEDA] Paragraph 14 of the Act of Colonia establishes that balance-of-trade differences will be compensated through purchases ordered by the party registering a surplus. President Alfonsin, don't you believe that Uruguay should be allowed a small balance-of-trade surplus, taking into account that the Uruguayan economy is smaller than the Argentine economy?

[Alfonsin] It may be possible; that possibility has not been ruled out. We have agreed on a compensation system that we have not considered to be comprehensive and that will allow us to asess our annual trade and the eventual surplus of deficit in keeping with the performance of our economies. The system does not foresee mathematically established compensation.

[Name indistinct][of Montevideo] President Sanguinetti: President Alfonsin has said that we are taking the first steps along a path that Latin America will inevitably have to follow. Are there plans to reach similar agreements with other countries of the region in the short term?

[Sanguinetti] Yes, sir. As I said in my speech, the agreement Argentina and Uruguay have reached is not exclusively for our two nations. If I am not mistaken, the second paragraph of the joint declaration states that we are strengthening Latin American integration. We believe that all nations should make every effort to achieve this goal. Argentina and Uruguay have taken this first step. At the same time, we are also taking steps with Brazil. The Brazilian foreign minister will in the next few hours visit Argentina. We will continue holding talks with Brazil and with the other Latin American nations on moving forward in the socioeconomic integration process. The general principles of integration have been laid down by the Andean countries, which created the Andean Pact, and by the Central American countries, which created a common market. Our responsibility is to achieve integration with the River Plate Basin nations and the Atlantic coast nations. This is the way to fulfill the task of Latin American integration.

[Raul Rostori, EL DIA] President Alfonsin, is it possible to make sure that Argentine commercial and industrial sectors will not hinder or oppose the fulfillment of these commercial agreements?

[Alfonsin] I believe this may happen, and I cannot give assurances that it will not happen. What I can tell you is that this decision was made by the Argentine Government and that the government is determined to fulfill it.

[Name indistinct][from Argentine television Channel 10] Mr President, has a common position been established through these agreements regarding trade and prices of products exported to other countries, namely the EEC?

[Alfonsin] No, we did not consider the subject concerning prices of products exported to the EEC. We discussed other issues related to our bilateral relations. We will not be prevented from considering other subjects as important as that mentioned recently by President Sanguinetti in his speech that the policies imposed by the EEC and the United States on subsidies have provoked a tremendous drop in the prices of our basic products, which in turn is aggravating the continuous deterioration of our trade terms. All this serves to force us to implement a policy to defend ourselves from all that, as stated somewhere in the joint declaration.

[Name indistinct][of television Channel 4] In the speeches you made, especially the one by President Alfonsin, mention was made of the need for a new economic order. Does Damocles' sword in the form of the foreign debt hang over the democracies of this continent? Do you think it is possible to achieve a basic political agreement among the countries of the continent to face with a certain degree of optimism the centers of world economic power?

[Alfonsin] As you know, we have already been working on this for some time now through what is called the Cartagena Consensus, which groups 11 Latin American countries with the purpose of better defending ourselves in the financial sector and harmonizing our policies on the subject of the foreign debt problem.

In this regard, we are convinced that the Uruguayan democracy can provide an essential contribution and that we will be able to set the groundwork for a type of activity that will certainly lead to success. I want to add that the Cartagena Group is headquartered in Montevideo and that its secretary is the Uruguayan foreign minister, who has broad experience with the international economic and financial order. He has already held contacts not only with authorities of creditor countries in America but also with those of the EEC. I am convinced that finally we are going to succeed in obtaining political consideration of the debt problem and that it will no longer be considered exclusively an economic problem.

[(Sergio) Soares, of Argentina EL TELEGRAFO and INTEGRACION magazine] President Alfonsin, can you cite the three most important decisions for development adopted at this summit conference?

[Alfonsin] Well, I do not know if I can give an exact summary. I think the statements made are explicit enough, because they were made very concisely so that you can also give a clear report to your readers or listeners. I think that what we said recently about the automotive industry is very important. I also think that the possibility of keeping 5 percent of the Argentine market for Uruguayan products exempt from all taxes is very important. Moreover, everything related to physical integration, including the feasibility studies for the construction of the bridge in Colonia, some agreements on transport, both on highways and on railroads, can be considered important.

[(Justo Contrera Noguera), Colombian television station 24 Hour News] Messrs Presidents, the advent of your new democracies is being followed closely by the people of Colombia, where the current Central American situation has been given special attention by President Betancur. Considering the meeting held recently in Brasilia between Presidents Sanguinetti and Betancur, and the one held a few weeks ago between President Alfonsin and President Reagan in Washington, is there anything new concerning the efforts being made by the Contadora Group that received your attention here today?

[Alfonsin] Of course, on considering international matters, we agreed to continue, as we have always done, giving our support to the Contadora Group.

HEAD OF CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES BEGINS TOUR

PY151835 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1210 GMT 15 May 85

[Text] Montevideo, 15 May (EFE) -- The president of the Uruguayan Chamber of Deputies, Antonio Marchessano, today began a tour taking him to Venezuela, Mexico, and Cuba. Marchessano said that the trip is aimed at strengthening Uruguayan friendship with the peoples and governments of those three nations.

The most important stop is the visit to Havana at the special invitation of the Cuban National Assembly of the People's Government. Marchessano's trip to Cuba is taking place at the same time as trade relations between the two countries resumed after being suspended over 20 years ago.

President Julio Maria Sanguinetti anounced just after he became president of Uruguay that his efforts will be aimed at normalizing diplomatic relations with all countries. The resumption of relations with Venezuela, and the visits of Uruguayan politicians to Cuba and the PRC, two countries with which Uruguay does not maintain diplomatic relations, marked the beginning of that policy.

LABOR MINISTER ANDERSON PRESENTS RESIGNATION

PA180120 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0050 GMT 18 May 85

[Text] Panama City, 17 May (ACAN-EFE) -- Panamanian Labor and Social Welfare Minister Luis Anderson resigned from his post today, according to information given to ACAN-EFE. Anderson, who was ratified by President Nicolas Ardito Barletta on 6 May following a cabinet reshuffle, is the first minister to resign but the second to leave. Rafael Fernandez Lara was appointed government and justice minister on 6 May, only a few hours later, and though his replacement was not officially explained, Jorge Riba was sworn in and has remained in the post.

The cabinet's resignation took place following strong pressures by the Democratic Revolutionary Party, one of the parties comprising the alliance that brought President Nicolas Ardito Barletta to the presidency. The party was demanding "political space." Minister Anderson explained today that the Confederation of Workers of the Republic of Panama (CTRP) requested his resignation so that he could return to the organization "to carry out a series of tasks in the international union sector." Following this resignation the president will be able to allow the "political space" demanded by the Agrarian Labor Party (PALA), while Minister Anderson will return to his union activities, according to his statement to ACAN-EFE.

The minister gave the names of some possible successors, all of them members of PALA: Luis de Leon Arias, (former president of the assembly), Jorge Lee (former manager of the Colon Free Zone), and Carlos Munoz (lawyer).

New Minister Appointed

PA200245 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 May 85

[Text] Today Panamanian President Nicolas Ardito Barletta announced the appointment of Jorge Federico Lee as the new labor and social welfare minister. Lee replaces trade union leader Luis Anderson, who resigned his post this weekend in a letter to the president. Lee, the new minister, has said he will continue Anderson's efforts to make the Labor Ministry play an effective role in the country's economic and social development.

ABADIA ON U.S. EMBARGO AGAINST NICARAGUA

PA131622 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 13 May 85 p 10 B

[Article by Jaime Beitia]

[Text] Only 48 hours before the meeting of Contadora Group deputy foreign ministers, new Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia stressed that "dialogue, understanding, and tolerance are measures that will truly lead us to peace." He said that no measure of violence can help solve the problems. He was referring to the United States' commercial, air, and maritime embargo against Nicaragua. The Panamanian foreign minister said that the Central American situation, especially the economic embargo against Nicaragua, affects the Contadora Group which is seeking a peaceful solution for this strife-torn region. He maintained that no measure of force can help find peace quickly. The SELA will hold a similar meeting in Caracas, Venezuela. This will be a special meeting attended by representatives of the Latin American countries, as well as those of the Contadora Group to discuss the economic embargo against Nicaragua and its effects on the area.

AREA MEETING ON U.S. EMBARGO TO BE HELD

FL171246 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0225 GMT 17 May 85

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 16 May (NOTIMEX) -- Honduran Ambassador to Mexico Ricardo Pineda Milla has said the U.S. economic embargo against Nicaragua and its implications will be the subject of a meeting of the five Central American countries. The diplomat added that at the meeting, which will begin tomorrow in Costa Rica, the economic ministers and central bank presidents of the area will discuss those matters and their repercussions on the isthmus.

COSTA RICA

FOREIGN MINISTRY EXPLAINS STAND ON U.S. EMBARGO

PA162309 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 10 May 85 p 4

[Foreign Ministry document issued on 9 May -- quotation marks as published]

[Text] "The Costa Rican Government has carefully studied the recent evolution of the situation in Central America. Within this context it is deeply worried about the increasing number of elements characteristic of the East-West confrontation which are particularly aggravating the regional crisis. The economic measures adopted by the U.S. Government and Commander Ortega's trip to Moscow constitute the most obvious signs of this intensification of regional tension.

The Costa Rican Government acknowledges that one of the objectives indicated by the U.S. Government for adopting these measures, which are a means of pressuring so that a dialogue is held internally between the Nicaraguan Govenrment and the political and military opposition, is an objective which the current Costa Rican Government has endorsed from the beginning of its administration. Internal dialogue and national reconciliation in both Nicaragua and El Salvador have received and will continue to receive the most generous endorsement from the Costa Rican Government.

We also agree that without a dialogue among the conflicting parties and without national reconciliation it is impossible to advance toward the establishment of truly democratic institutions. In turn, without democratic institutions it is impossible to achieve domestic peace and definitely remove the danger of war among the Central American nations.

From the study conducted by the Costa Rican Government it has deduced that it is legally impossible for it to participate in these economic measures or the activities destined to make these measures effective or to adopt similar measures. The government believes that if Costa Rica were to act in this manner it would violate not only its obligations as a member of the CACM, but also the Peace and Friendship Treaty signed with Nicaragua in 1948 and the subsequent protocol signed in 1955. It is the Costa Rican Government's opinion that to cooperate with the economic measures adopted by the United States would be to violate the neutrality proclamation, a cornerstone of its foreign policy.

In addition to the previously explained legal reasons, the Costa Rican Government believes that its participation in any economic measure of a coercive nature would represent an obstacle to the objectives of the Contadora Group. Section 47 of the document currently under discussion, the Contadora Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America, clearly expresses a commitment among Central America states "not to adopt among themselves coercive or discriminatory measures to the detriment of the economy of any of the Central American countries."

The Contadora process itself has repeatedly pointed to internal dialogue and national reconciliation as fundamental objectives of the process. This is why the Costa Rican Government feels that these objectives must be achieved within the framework of Contadora and its efforts because this is how it was once again stated in the declaration of San Salvador, issued on 7 May by the foreign ministers of Costa Rica, Honduras, and El Salvador, and the deputy foreign minister of Guatemala."

INDIAN DELEGATES MEET MONGE, PRESENT DEMANDS

PA170245 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 May 85

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge met with (Clay Chartier), from Canada, chairman of the World Indian Council, and two Costa Rican Indian council members, Jose Vicente and Lazaro Delgado.

During the meeting, the president was presented a document asking him to dismiss the most important officials of the National Commisson for Indian Affairs, CONAI, and those in charge of the Indian section of the Agrarian Development Institute due to their incompetence. President Monge was also asked to dismiss two officials of the agriculture ministry's general directorate because they have granted permits to exploit lumber, in disregard for the protection of nature and the Indian people.

Delgado thanked Monge for his attention on behalf of the Atlantic zone's Indian associations. Delgado said Monge showed interest in the problems presented to him during the 45-minute meeting. He said that the actions taken against the group of Indians detained last week are unjust and that the outrages committed will be dealt with. Monge also said that he will see to it that the actions asked for in the document be taken, but this will take some time.

MONGE COMMENTS ON THREE-NATION ASIAN TOUR

PA172229 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 17 May 85

[Gretel Tinoco report from San Jose's Juan Santamaria Airport — live or recorded]

[Text] President Luis Alberto Monge will be boarding a private plane in a few moments to begin a tour of Middle East [as heard] countries, namely, South [Korea], Japan, and China. The private plane he is using has been loaned to him by personal friends.

The president will first make a stop in Los Angeles, where he will meet this afternoon with members of the Costa Rican colony in the United States. He will leave for Korea on Sunday, arriving there at 0430, Costa Rican time.

President Monge made the following remarks to this station about his trip:

[Begin recording] There have been many campaigns against presidential trips during all administrations. However, the great interdependence among nations at the present times does not allow us to isolate ourselves. We would be making a mistake if we do not avail ourselves of these invitations.

In this particular case, they will bolster our efforts to bring investments to our country as well as our efforts to consolidate and expand the areas of economic, technological, scientific, and cultural cooperation. In addition, my trip is aimed at exploring the possibility of selling more Costa Rican products in these countries, with which we have an unfavorable trade balance. [end recording]

The president added that it is extremely important for our country to exchange ideas with [word indistinct] which have the same democratic ideals as Costa Rica.

In addition, President Monge said that he is confidently leaving power in the hands of Vice President Armando Arauz, who is now acting president. He added that the [words indistinct] the difficulties being experienced in the banana areas following the storm that has resulted in large losses to Costa Rica. Arauz will make every effort to keep further troubles from occurring during his interim tenure, he noted.

Monge said before leaving for Asia that he fully supports the statements made by the foreign minister yesterday with regard to the Contadora meeting, which many have described as failure.

The president is leaving at this moment with a very small delegation; the rest of his 20-member entourage will leave at 1800. It should be noted that Information Minister Armando Vargas will not travel to Korea. He has decided to stay in Costa Rica to campaign for a deputy's seat for the National Liberation Party.

Arrives in South Korea

PA191634 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1330 GMT 19 May 85

[Report by William Cespedes from Seoul, Korea -- live]

[Text] Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge Alvarez is now in Seoul, capital of Korea, on the first leg of his 15-day 3-nation Asian tour. Monge Alvarez and his party arrived here at 1940, 0440 Costa Rican time. President Monge Alvarez was received by Korean Prime Minister No Sin-yong and was immediately taken to the [word indistinct] Hotel, where he was accorded full honors.

Within a few hours, the president will begin the activities scheduled for this official 3-day visit to Korea. Monge Alvarez has expressed his desire to bolster and expand the commerical, political, and diplomatic relations with Korea amid a climate of support for the Costa Rican Government's actions.

President Chun is slated to receive President Monge Alvarez tomorrow morning and will host a dinner for him in the evening. Monge Alvarez and his party leave Tuesday for the southern part of the Korean peninsula to visit a gigantic industrial complex. Later he will return to the capital and on Thursday he leaves for Japan.

According to the Costa Rican president, this is a chance to expand not only commercial relations but to create possibilities so that both Costa Rica and the Asian countries may strengthen actions intended to achieve a better democracy throughout the world. President Monge Alvarez, Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez, Planning Minister Juan Manuel Villasuso, and other officials will open bilateral talks to define a number of cooperation agreements covering various areas. The reception for President Monge Alvarez here in Seoul tonight was truly impressive. The two countries flags could be seen along the road from Kimpo Airport to the [word indistinct] Hotel, underscoring the unity between the two countries.

Seoul Coverage

For Seoul YONHAP reportage on the visit to South Korea by Presidnet Luis Alberto Monge Alvarez, including his arrival and talks with President Chon Tu-hwan, see the South Korea section of the 20 May Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

EL SALVADOR

ARMY SPOKESMEN CONFIRM DETENTION OF U.S. SHIP

PA171641 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1619 GMT 17 May 85

[Text] San Salvador, 17 May (ACAN-EFE) -- Salvadoran Army spokesmen confirmed this morning that a foreign boat flying a U.S. flag was detained in Salvadoran territorial waters. An Army officer told ACAN-EFE that the boat was detained yesterday, Thursday, by the Navy in the proximity of the Gulf of Honseca in the eastern part of the country. He added that the boat Star Ascent, flying the U.S. flag, was towed to the Navy base of Puerto de Cutuco in La Union Department in the far eastern region of El Salvador, for investigation.

The miliary reports indicate that thus far it is not known exactly where the ship had sailed from and what it was transporting.

Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte stated today to the ABC Television Network in Washington, where he is on an official visit, that a Nicaraguan boat with weapons for the guerrillas had been captured in his country. The Salvadoran president added that the boat was captured last night and was being towed today to a Salvadoran port and that it was believed to have set sail from Nicaragua.

Further on Seizure

PA171707 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1630 GMT 17 May 85

[Report by Alberto Barrera]

[Text] We approached the Salvadoran Armed Forces to inquire about President Jose Napoleon Duarte's report to a U.S. television network that a vessel loaded with weapons was captured in Salvadoran waters. Armed Forces spokesmen confirmed that a U.S.-flagged vessel was captured yesterday in Salvadoran waters. They indicated that the Salvadoran Navy captured the Star Ascent in Salvadoran waters and escorted it to the port of Cutuco in La Union Department yesterday afternoon. However, it was not revealed if the ship was carrying weapons or if it was traveling from Nicaragua to the Salvadoran rebels.

Ship Searched for Weapons

PA171719 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1633 GMT 17 May 85

[Report by (Alberto Barrera)]

[Text] We have contacted (Higinio Melchor Palacios), La Union port captain, regarding the ship allegedly transporting weapons from Nicaragua for the Salvadoran guerrillas. Port Captain (Palacios) has told us that it is a U.S. ship, a merchant ship transporting merchandise for El Salvador. The port captain will tell us about the capture of this U.S. ship that, according to President Jose Napoleon Duarte's statements in Washington, was transporting weapons from Nicaragua for the Salvadoran guerrillas.

[Begin (Palacios) recording] It is a merchant ship headed for the port of Cutuco. It is standard procedure that ships be searched; it is standard procedure.

[(Barrera)] In Washington President Duarte said that this ship was transporting weapons from Nicaragua for our country's subversion.

[(Palacios)] The ship is only carrying merchandise.

[(Barrera)] Why was the ship escorted into the port of Cutuco?

[(Palacios)] Because this is standard procedure; those are the standard orders.

[(Barrera)] Does this mean that the ship crossed the 200 mile limit?

[(Palacios)] Every ship that enters is escorted to the port. It is standard procedure.

[(Barrera)] Is the search normal procedure?

[(Palacios)] Yes, the ship was searched and this is standard procedure.

[(Barrera)] Where is the ship coming from?

[(Palacios)] From the United States, headed to the port of Cutuco.

[(Barrera)] So the ship was coming from the United States directly to the port of Cutuco. Therefore, it was not a ship in transit?

[(Palacios)] No. What we are seeing is something normal.

[(Barrera)] We can, therefore, say that there are no problems regarding the ship.

[(Palacios)] No problem. [end recording]

This was the report by Port Captain (Palacios) on the escort of the StartAscent, a U.S. merchant ship, transporting goods to the port of Cutuco. The ship was escorted, in a normal manner, by the national Navy, thereby contradicting what President Duarte said in the United States that the ship was probably carrying weapons for the guerrillas and that the ship was coming from Nicaragua.

GOVERNMENT DECLARES ANDA, ISSS STRIKES ILLEGAL

PA180140 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0045 GMT 18 May 85

[Text] San Salvador, 17 May (ACAN-EFE) -- The Salvadoran Government has declared "illegal" the on-going strikes in various public services and warned employees that they risk dismissal. The Salvadoran Labor Ministry has declared "illegal" the strikes by workers of the Salvadoran Institute of Social Security (ISSS) and the National Administration of Waterworks and Sewers (ANDA) more than 1 week ago.

ISSS and ANDA trade union members decided to go on strike last week to demand higher salaries, the dismissal of administrative heads, and better social compensations.

The Labor Ministry has reminded strikers that Executive Decree 296 is in force. Among other things, the decree deals with the dismissal of workers who abandon their jobs.

The decree also establishes fines ranging from 200 colones ($80) to 2,000 colones ($800) for director generals, division, department, or section heads, and, in general, every official or employee with authority over others who somehow supports strikers.

ANDA Chairman Jose Ricardo Perdomo has said that the ANDA workers' strike is "groundless," since the trade union members demand the revision of agreements already approved and the mechanisms for their fulfillment, as well as the dismissal of 12 officials without submitting proof of the charges against them.

ISSS Director General Jorge Bustamante has said that he will not increase the workers' salaries, because "it is impossible."

During an impromptu press conference ANDA and ISSS union members said they will go on with their strikes despite the government's threats and possible "repressive measures." The strikers have charged that the ANDA chairman has dismissed 49 union members and given their names to security organizations so the latter would prevent their entering the premises. The trade union members have indicated that they are not linked to any political organization in the country, although efforts have been made to link them to leftist political parties or organizations to hamper their "just demands."

During the press conference, members of the National Association of Salvadoran Teachers (ANDES) said they plan general strikes for the next few days.

The ANDA and ISSS strikes are supported by the Coordinating Board for the Solidarity of Workers, CST, formed by 36 trade unions from several enterprises.

The government has set a deadline of next Monday for strikers to return to their jobs or Decree 296, dealing with dismissals, will be applied.

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ON KIDNAPPINGS OF MAYORS

PA170358 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 15 May 85 pp 3, 46

[Text] "The government and the Armed Forces have a permanent respect for human rights, which is in great contrast to the attitude assumed by the guerrillas, who are kidnapping civilians who have the people's support." This is what an official spokesman of Jose Napoleon Duarte's government said about the kidnappings of the mayors who were elected on 31 March 1985.

"The guerrillas' decision to continue kidnapping more mayors is most unfortunate because what they are doing is an offense to the Salvadoran people. The people democratically elected the mayors kidnapped by the guerrillas, who have threatened to carry out more kidnappings. Therefore, we can say that these actions of the FMLN-FDR are against the people and not against the government," the government spokesman said.

There is a difference between these kidnappings and the arrests made by the Armed Forces. For instance, in the case of Nidia Diaz, she is a fighter who was captured in the battlefield. She also received the proper medical attention before she was placed under the jurisdiction of the corresponding authorities. There is definitely no comparison between this case and that of the mayors who have been kidnapped. They were elected by the people to manage the destiny of their respective jurisdictions. So far, one mayor has already been killed by the guerrillas. It was very inhuman, the spokesman said.

"There is a big contrast between the attitude of the government and Armed Forces toward human rights and that of the guerrillas," the spokesman added. "The gurerillas have been mentioning a Commander Samour and another person, whom they claim are being held by the Armed Forces, but as far as the authorities know, these two persons are not prisoners of the Armed Forces and they were not captured while they were seeking medical attention in San Miguel."

Army Unwilling To Exchange Guerrillas

PA190327 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 May 85

[Text] General Adolfo Oneciforo Blandon, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, yesterday told Cadena Sonora that there are no plans to make any deals with the rebels. Gen Blandon made the statement in reference to the possible situation of exchanging kidnapped mayors for capture guerrillas. Gen Blandon said that with the support of the law and the people, there is no reason for the Armed Forces to make any deals with the FMLN. He therefore discarded any possibility of the Armed Forces and the guerrillas exchanging rebels for mayors.

13 Mayors Reportedly Kidnapped

PA170253 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 May 85

[Bulletin issued by the Armed Forces Press Committee, Coprefa, on 15 May in San Salvador]

[Text] A total of 13 municipal mayors have been kidnapped by the FMLN. The kidnapping of the [name indistinct], mayor of San Dionisio, which is located 118 km east of San Salvador, by FMLN terrorists, was confirmed. The kidnappings of the mayor of Comalapa, who is the brother of Miguel Ardon, and the mayor of El Carrizal, both in Chalatenango Department, were also confirmed. Including these two, a total of 13 mayors have been kidnapped so far by the FMLN terrorist hordes.

These kidnappings are reproachable inasmuch as these mayors were elected freely and democratically by the people.

The FMLN terrorists machine-gunned a private vehicle bearing license plate No 73-305, near the village of Penitente, 53 km west of San Salvador. One civilian was wounded. The terrorists also set fire to the mayor's office in Mercedes Umana, Usulutan Department, 125 km east of San Salvador. They also dynamited eight power pylons and an electric tower in various parts of the country.

A total of eight terrorists were killed and an undisclosed number wounded yesterday during clashes between units of the National Guard and FMLN extremists, who tried to seize the advance vigilance post in Las Lomas, Chinameca municipality, 122 km east of San Salvador. In another action, units of Military Detachment No 4 clashed with terrorists near [words indistinct] San Miguel municipality. In this action one terrorist was wounded and units of Detachment No 4 seized one M-16 rifle and military supplies from the terrorists.

RADIO VENCEREMOS ON 'CAPTURE' OF MORE MAYORS

PA171934 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0200 GMT 17 May 85

[Text] Within the framework of our policy to ban local governments in areas where the puppet army is unable to guarantee them, FMLN guerrillas captured the mayor of Ereguayquin in Usulutan Department. In the past few days, the FMLN has captured the mayors of Nueva Esparta, San Dionisio and Jucuaran, and the municipal secretary of Poloros. It must be stressed that the Jucuaran mayor was captured during an enemy operation in Usulutan. Our forces destroyed 42 of the 86 mayor's offices in the

eastern region of the country. The municipal government in eastern El Salvador has been reduced to ashes and debris.

As a result of our presence and the evident duality of power in the western region, several mayors have left their posts. We have learned that the mayors of Santa Elena, Mercedes Umana, and Santiago de Maria left their offices.

The puppet army cannot even guarantee the local government in areas like Santiago de Maria. This local government is a key factor in the counterinsurgency plans designed by the warmongers of Washington and carried out by the puppets of the top command and the Christian Democratic Party. We note that the mayor of San Simon, Morazan Department, is still in our hands. The person released was the former mayor; the current mayor is still in our hands.

Mayor Released in Comalapa

PA190455 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 17 May 85

[Text] Attention Salvadoran people: Raul Pineda, mayor of El Carrizal municipality, located here in Chalatenango Department, was released on 16 May at 1700. Miguel Ardon, brother of the former mayor of Comalapa, was released with Pineda. Both were being held captive by our revolutionary forces. We released both of them in Comalapa on 16 May at 1700. Our units seized Comalapa and released Pineda and Ardon in front of hundreds of residents who gathered to listen to speeches by our companeros. Pineda and Ardon are now with their families.

FMLN ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR STRIKING WORKERS

PA161843 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 15 May 85

[Text] Today 14 May, the Christian Democrats' fascist dictatorship has taken off its mask. With an arrogance contrary to all workers' rights, Napoleon Duarte has ordered -- at the request of engineer Perdomo, who has been repudiated -- the militarization of the National Administration of Waterworks and Sewers [ANDA] installations. Our fellow workers at ANDA are continuing their strike due to management's refusal to negotiate and settle the workers' demands.

Army members of the Christian Democratic dictatorship cordoned off and militarized ANDA's installations. In addition, they presented a blacklist of union leaders and workers allegedly linked to those who have taken up arms. This list prepared by the repressive engineer Perdomo, and military intelligence members, threatens and condemns the workers who courageously and firmly maintain their demands, which includes the dismissal of engineer Perdomo who is rejected because of his repressive background.

Today, 14 May, Perdomo has been issuing threats and ordering the dismissal of striking workers. The brother workers of ANDA have firmly said that they will not be intimidated by the militarization of their work centers, an action that is an attack on the working class.

This is the government's reply: more repression, more threats, and more intransigence in the face of the workers' demands. The puppet army has already killed two ANDA workers and one is missing. Far from dealing with the urgent demand for wage increases and far from imparting justice in the case of those killed, the government has taken off its mask and has replied like all gorillas, like all the dictatorships that have tried to subjugate the working class. However, they have been unable to do this in the past and they will be unable to achieve their objective now.

Duarte, Perdomo, [name indistinct], and the Christian Democratic officials should not forget that the working class now has a poweful revolutionary army, that we are everywhere, that we struggle for the interests of the working class, and that they can be sure that no crime, no outrage, and no injustice committed by the fascists against the peasants, workers, students, and any Salvadoran will go unpunished.

The FMLN, armed wing of the working class, will impart justice. Onward brother workers! The demands are just! The united and firm workers will achieve their demands! Together we will defeat the Duarte dictatorship!

GUATEMALA

MEJIA VICTORES, ARMY STAFF, ASSEMBLYMEN MEET

PA172159 Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 May 85

[Excerpts] The country's zone and brigade commanders met at the Presidential Palace today for 7 hours with Head of State General Oscar Mejia Victores and Army staff officers. It has been reported that the council of commanders met with the head of state at 1000. The commanders left the presidential palace after 1800 under strict security measures that were maintained around the palace throughout the meeting.

The fact that Mejia Victores met with the commanders midway through the month has been noted by observers because the head of state and the commanders usually meet at the beginning of the month to discuss national problems and measures to ensure Guatemalans' security and the nation's sovereignty. Troops guarded the front of the Presidential Palace on 6th Avenue, while several armored vehicles and others, with private plates but belonging to the Army, were parked on the same street.

The members of the presidential guard remained absolutely silent when asked who those meeting with the head of state and the Army high command were. The Army staff is formed by Army Chief of Staff General Rodolfo Lobos Zamora, Colonel Pablo Nuila, chief of staff of the presidency, and Deputy Defense Minister Colonel Juan Medina Aguilar.

When the meeting was about to end Hector Aragon Quinonez and Ramiro de Leon Carpio, alternate national Constituent Assembly chairmen, entered the palace. Deputy Luis Alfonso Alonso Barias, leader of the Christian Democratic deputies, also arrived, on behalf of Roberto Carpio Nicole, who was hospitalized early this morning as a result of an illness. Aragon Quinonez said that the head of state had summoned him and the two other alternate chairmen to the Presidential Palace this afternoon to discuss undisclosed matters. After 1 hour the Assembly chairmen left the Presidential Palace. One of them, Aragon Quinonez, of the Nationalist Democratic Movement, said that they discussed with Mejia Victores matters related to the electoral law that will regulate the coming October general elections, all of which seems extremely strange.

Information Secretary on Meeting

PA172223 Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 May 85

[Text] Interviewed this afternoon at his Presidential Palace office, Ramon Celada Carrillo, public relations secretary for the presidency, explained the strange and unexpected meeting held today by representatives of the government's most important sectors.

[Begin recording] As you know, the second stage of the national dialogue will take place tomorrow. The head of state wants this dialogue to yield positive results. It is only natural for him to summon the members of the economic cabinet, particularly his advisers, to finalize the details related to the second stage of the dialogue.

Regarding the meeting with some commanders, let's bear in mind that the commanders are part of the government. The head of state is but the head of the military government, which is formed by the army commanders. In addition, the head of state has considered it necessary and convenient for his government that the commanders be familiar with the way in which the dialogue will be held and the results that are expected [words indistinct]. [end recording]

MEJIA VICTORES SAYS DEMOCRATIZATION CONTINUES

PA181602 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisores Unidas in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 May 85

[Text] General Oscar Mejia Victores, head of the Guatemalan military government, has reiterated that the democratization process that will culminate with presidential elections on 27 October, will continue without any hitches. He added that the promise given by the Army will be kept and that power will be turned over to the candidate who comes out the winner in the free and democratic elections. Mejia Victores added that the government remains impartial in the current electoral process, without endorsing any of the four civilian candidates who will vie for the presidency.

On another subject, Mejia Victores pointed out that Guatemala continues making efforts to achieve peace in Central America through a policy of nonintervention on behalf of any of the sides in conflict. According to him, certain sectors would like the Guatemalan Government to favor U.S. policy, while other sectors would like Guatemala to favor the other world power. However, he said, the current Guatemalan Government has decided to maintain an independent policy in the Central American conflict.

HONDURAS

PRESIDENT CITED ON UPCOMING TRIP TO WASHINGTON

PA172200 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 17 May 85

[Excerpts] Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova made statements to the press on Thursday regarding various matters of interest. When asked about the importance of his trip to Washington the president said:

[Begin recording] I have accepted a cordial invitation extended by President Ronald Reagan in September. I was not able to accept it then, but he has reiterated it, and since the elections are scheduled for November, I have decided to go now. I think that President Reagan and I will meet at Andrews Air Force Base when I arrive there on Monday at 1500. We will analyze some problems, but aside from this cordial and friendly visit with President Reagan -- he is my personal friend and this friendship has been strengthened by the democracy of our two countries -- I will also be signing an agreement for $75 million of the $148 million still pending disbursement. I believe that the first $25 million will be disbursed in June, $25 million in July, and the remaining $25 million will be disbursed in September. These $75 million will strengthen our balance of payment and will help the private sector.

[Reporter] While in Washington, will you bring up the issue of the problem between Honduras and Nicaragua?

[Suazo] I will not be giving a news conference. My schedule is more or less established. I will discuss the Central American situation; I have my opinions regarding this and will express them. [end recording]

Leaves for Visit

PA191736 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1719 GMT 19 May 85

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 19 May (DPA) -- Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova left for Washington today at 1000. He will meet on Tuesday and Wednesday with his U.S. colleague, Ronald Reagan, in the U.S. capital.

Suazo and his entourage, which includes Presidential Secretary Ubodoro Arriaga and Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica as well as Armed Forces Commander General Walter Lopez and a large group of journalists, arrived today in Houston from where they will travel to Washington tomorrow.

The Honduran president has left the country without solving an institutional crisis that has resulted in a confrontation between the three branches of state, a confrontation that has already existed for more than a month. The worker-peasant sector has announced that it will go on a general strike this week because of this confrontation.

In Washington, Suazo and Reagan are expected to sign an economic and military assistance agreement and will analyze the political situation in Central America, according to what official sources have said in Tegucigalpa.

The cabinet, headed by Government and Justice Secretary Arnulfo Pineda Lopez, is in charge of the executive branch during President Suazo's absence.

While in Washington, the Honduran head of state will have a medical check-up, according to official spokesmen in the Honduran capital.

SANDINISTS REPORTEDLY OCCUPY BORDER AREA

PA182343 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 May 85

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 18 May (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran newspaper LA PRENSA reported today that Sandinist military forces occupy national territory, and the Honduran Army is unable to dislodge them. According to the information, 700 Sandinists occupy the Jalapa area, while 600 of them occupy the Santa Clara area. The two areas are located in El Paraiso Department in the country's east, bordering the Nicaraguan Departments of Nueva Segovia and Jinotega. According to the newspaper, these troops belong to the Santos Lopez Unconventional Warfare Battalion, BLI, and are supported by a Russian-made BM-21 multiple-firing rocket launcher.

It has also been indicated that soldiers of the 12th Honduran Infantry Battalion operate nearby, but officers and soldiers complain of "a shortage of men and heavy-caliber weapons to expel the Sandinists from Honduras." An officer reportedly told journalists: "We have been promised reinforcements, but several days have passed, and the convoys of vehicles carrying soldiers and cannon don't show up."

The report points out that the Honduran Army has only 140 soldiers deployed in a 70-km radius, and that for this reason the officers do not dare take any action against the Sandinists. The report, datelined Cifuentes, El Paraiso Department, shows pictures of Honduran soldiers on patrol and the location of the Sandinist rocket launcher and civilian control checkposts. The newspaper indicated: "Our informant was concerned over the Armed Forces staff's little interest in what happens in the eastern sector."

The LA PRENSA report contradicts Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica and government and Army spokesmen who said yesterday that national troops have absolute control over all national territory. In press statements, Paz Barnica has denied reports by civilians who were displaced from the area and who said that the Sandinists occupied Honduran territory. Paz Barnica also said that the Army has mobilized sufficient troops and heavy weapons to several areas in conflict with Nicaragua.

It has been reported that the 110th Infantry Brigade was ordered to carry out defensive actions in case of a Sandinist mobilization near the brigade's positions. Sandinists have placed heavy artillery in strategic sites.

LA PRENSA said that it interviewed a lieutenant by the name of Reyes Coto, who had been involved in some incidents with Sandinists.

According to Reyes Coto, his patrol was surrounded by 200 Sandinists, but the patrol managed to hide in a thicket in time, and remained in absolute silence for 12 hours, during which time they were stung by insects. The newspaper reports that Reyes Coto said: "God saved me because I clung to a Bible that my wife gave me before I came to this area."

THOUSANDS FLEE FROM BORDER DUE TO CLASHES

PA162339 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 15 May 85 p 8

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- Several thousands of Hondurans have been fleeing from the eastern border with Nicaragua -- divided by the Topeka River -- where the Sandinist People's Army [EPA] has continued shelling Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, redoubts. An official source has estimated that more than 10,000 inhabitants have been relocated to other places far from the border, while the Honduran Army's 6th Infantry Battalion has been mobilized to the sector.

U.S. Ambassador John Dimitri Negroponte said last weekend that the Sandinist government headed by Daniel Ortega will be to blame for the outcome of the incidents at the Honduran-Nicaraguan border. Negroponte said Ortega has been following mistaken policies during the past 2 years.

In addition, Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica has said he still has not officially learned of the disarmament proposal for the counterrevolutionaries announced by Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco. Paz Barnica said: The Honduran Government has not learned of this proposal. We will consider it when we receive it. I feel that this proposal will have to be examined in the framework of the Contadora Group, he added.

The Sandinist attack on counterrevolutionary camps on the eastern Nicaragua-Honduras border began Sunday, 5 May, in a surprise operation, during which the FDN forces suffered dozens of casualties, according to reports by some wounded rebels who arrived at Danli. A Honduran military source said that the EPS has been launching Russian-made katyusha rockets from Nicaraguan territory. These rockets have an effective range of 20 km. This weapon has terrorized Hondurans living in the sector. Honduran peasants have described the modern, multiple-firing katyusha grenade launcher used by Sandinists to attack FDN camps as a rocket cluster [cohetera].

According to civilian authorities from the sector, more than eight communities have been abandoned as the result of the latest clashes, including Arenales, Espanol Grande, La Esperanza, Tronco de Ocote, Arenales Abajo, El Guano, Tapalchi, and Amparo. The Honduran villages that have been under intense Sandinist rocket fire include Boca de Arenal, where a Honduran soldier was killed and four others were wounded on Friday, La Esperanza, La Fruta, Las Vegas, Las Mieles, El Boqueron, and El Tablado.

A member of the Honduran Armed Forces has reported that the bulk of the Sandinist artillery is emplaced at La Fifa on the Nicaraguan side, El Dorado, and El Rosario del Salto.

Two incidents at the eastern border have kept the Honduran forces on the alert. These forces have refrained from firing back because this would spark war, said an Armed Forces source. The source added that the mobilization of an entire infantry battalion to the border area has alarmed the local residents even more. For fear of war, these residents prefer to abandon their villages and take refuge at Las Trojes, Cifuentes, and Danli. Military authorities feel that it is extremely difficult to disarm counterrevolutionaries. A military source said: "Not even the entire Honduran Army can control thousands of counterrevolutionaries concealed in wooded border areas that stretch for as far as 40 km." The source also said that since no roads of access or highways have been shelled so far, it has been observed that the Sandinist shelling attacks from Nicaraguan territory are aimed at clearing the border areas and provoking the displacement of the civilian population.

As compared to the Sandinist artillery, which has katyusha rockets, the Honduran artillery is at a disadvantage because the greatest range of its artillery guns is only 15 km. The military authorities have estimated that if the Sandinists' offensive against the FDN continues, more than 15,000 Honduran civilians are likely to flee from the border area.

PEASANT, WORKER GROUPS DECREE GENERAL STRIKE

PA180418 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 0338 GMT 18 May 85

[Statement issued by the peasant and worker organizations in Honduras, in Tegucigalpa, on 17 May; read by unidentified Radio America reporter at the Confederation of Honduran Workers, CTH, headquarters -- live]

[Text] The labor and peasant organizations, given the prolonged institutional crisis and the continuous efforts we have exerted for 45 consecutive days, sharing the people's demand that the problem be solved, and given that all the resources to hold a dialogue have been exhausted, state the following to the Honduran people:

We abide by the resolutions issued following the consultations with our members. Therefore, we have decided to faithfully enforce these resolutions, and unanimously decree a general strike, for the following reasons:

1. We demand the appointment of candidates elected by the people's vote, according to the documents issued by the peasants and workers on 26 April 1985.
2. We demand the resignation of the members who comprise two Supreme Courts of Justice.
3. We demand the release of Ramon Valladares Soto, and an end to the persecution of all the other magistrates.
4. We demand the active participation of the peasants and workers in the drafting, enforcement, and implementation of government plans that have been previously discussed and accepted by our political institutions.
5. We state that we accept no agreement which has been reached behind the backs of the workers and peasants movement to solve the crisis. We reiterate our firm decision to seek a prompt solution to the current conflict. We urge our members to remain alert to any communication issued by the national worker-peasant commission, which is the only one authorized to do it.

Issued in the city of Tegucigalpa, D.C., on 17 May 1985

[Signed] National Worker-Peasant Commission Felicito Avila, (Jose Bonerges Lezama), Mariano de Jesus Gonzalez, Nelly Ramirez, (Santos Valeriano Ordonez), Andres Victor Artiles, (Marco Tulio Cruz), (Erasmo Flores), Fidencio Ramirez, Teofilo Trejo, (Donatilo Herrera), (Filpidio Duarte), (Lucas Aguilera), and Oscar Escalante, plus Jose Ramos Lamote, of the [National Trade Union Federation of Honduran Workers

NICARAGUA

JULY RESUMPTION OF MANZANILLO TALKS URGED

PA170340 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 May 85

[Communique issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Managua on 17 May]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry very respectfully greets the Honorable Embassy of the United States and refers to the need to resume the bilateral talks in Manzanillo, which were unilaterally suspended by the U.S. Government.

In support of this position, the Nicaraguan Government recalls UN Security Council Resolution 562, dated 10 May, which in Article No 4 urges the U.S. and Nicaraguan Governments to resume the dialogue that they had been holding in Manzanillo, Mexico in order to achieve agreements favorable to the normalization of their relations and regional detente.

As an expression of its desire for peace, the Nicaraguan Government has repeatedly stressed the need to resume the direct dialogue with the United States in order to establish the bases to normalize relations between the two countries within a framework of mutual respect and strict compliance with international law. Nicaragua feels that this understanding will benefit the peace efforts carried out by the Contadora Group and facilitate the establishment of a lasting peace in the Central American region.

It must be pointed out that Nicaragua's desire to hold a dialogue with the U.S. Government was supported by the Contadora Group in its communique issued on 9 January 1985, which exhorted the U.S. and Nicaraguan Governments to intensify the dialogue that they had been holding in Manzanillo with the goal of achieving agreements that would favor the normalization of relations and regional detente.

The recent debates at the UN Security Council likewise manifested the unanimous support of the international community in favor of the resumption of the talks in Manzanillo. This same support has been directly demonstrated by among others, the presidents of Spain and France.

In compliance with the mandate contained in UN Security Council Resolution 562, the Nicaraguan Government officially proposes to the U.S. Government that the talks be reinitiated during the first half of July. The Nicaraguan Government hopes that this proposal will be accepted and that it will be possible to make progress upon firm bases in normalizing bilateral relations, and through this means, attain the peace desired and demanded as their full right, by, the Central American people.

The Foreign Ministry takes advantage of the opportunity to reiterate to the Honorable U.S. Embassy its highest regard.

Managua, 17 May 1985

CENTRAL AMERICAN MONETARY COUNCIL APPROVES LOAN

PA190230 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 May 85

[Text] The Central American Monetary Council has granted Nicaragua a $44-million loan and agreed to strengthen trade relations in the region. The council is composed of the presidents and vice presidents of the Central Banks of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua. Alberto Benitez, chairman of the council, said the organization also approved a financial agreement with the Latin American Exports Bank [Bladex] for $10 million, which will go to the Central American fund for economic stabilization.

RAMIREZ BIDS FAREWELL TO OBANDO Y BRAVO

PA180423 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 17 May 85

[Text] Sergio Ramirez Mercado today personally said farewell at the airport to Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo, who left this morning for Rome to receive his new rank as cardinal of the church at the Vatican. The Nicaraguan vice president, who is now acting president, reiterated today upon seeing the new cardinal off that it is definitely an honor for Nicaragua to have a cardinal and expressed hope that this will improve relations between the Nicaraguan Government and the church.

CASTRO MEETS WITH CPSU'S SOLOMENTSEV ON 15 MAY

FL171237 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 May 85

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, met last Wednesday, 15 May, with Comrade Mikhail S. Solomentsev, member of the CPSU Politburo, who led the Soviet delegation to the ceremonies commemorating the 25th anniversary of the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the USSR.

At the meeting, which took place in a fraternal atmosphere, characteristic of the relations between Cuba and the USSR, they discussed several international issues, the development of relations between the two countries, and other matters of mutual agreement.

Also present at the talks was Konstantin Katushev, member of the CPSU Central Committee and Soviet ambassador to Cuba.

CASTRO MEETS WITH MEXICAN, FRG DELEGATIONS

FL181214 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 18 May 85

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received the Mexican business delegation that is visiting our country for the fifth meeting of the Mexican-Cuban business committee, held on 16 May. During the meeting, they discussed issues relating to the international economic situation, Latin American economic integration, the foreign debt, and the development of bilateral economic relations. Fidel described the most important aspects of Cuba's economic and social development.

He also met last night with the delegation of politicians and scientists from the FRG, which participated in a seminar at Havana's Palace of Conventions entitled Western Europe in the 1980's: Economic and Social Changes. The meeting took place in a friendly atmosphere.

Discusses Soviet Oil to Nicaragua

PA182143 Paris AFP in Spanish 2059 GMT 18 May 85

[Text] Havana, 18 May (AFP) -- Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega asked the Soviets to cover his country's oil needs, Cuban President Fidel Castro announced during a meeting with FRG politicians, West German diplomatic sources indicated here today. The West German Social Democratic politicians' delegation was led by parliamentarians Hans Matthoefer and Hans-Ulrich Klose.

Fidel Castro did not tell his interlocutors whether the Nicaraguan leader's efforts to that effect had been successful.

Regarding the U.S. economic boycott against Nicaragua, the Cuban president compared the measure to the blockade decreed by the United States against his country more than 30 years ago and said that he believed that its principal effect would be the strengthening of the Nicaraguan people's unity against the United States.

BOLIVIA APPOINTS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES TO HAVANA

PA172257 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 May 85

[Text] The government of Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo has appointed Miguel Angel Flores as its first charge d'affaires to Cuba. Bolivia resumed its diplomatic relations with Cuba in early 1983. According to the official report, Flores will be traveling to Havana next week to open the Bolivian mission.

RAMON CASTRO-LED DELEGATION VISITS ECUADOR

FL162118 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1803 GMT 16 May 85

[Text] A Cuban technical-trade delegation that arrived in the city of Guayaquil headed by the director of the East Havana genetic plant, Ramon Castro, today initiated contacts with Ecuadoran cattlemen. The delegation was received at the Simon Bolivar Airport, in Guayaquil, by the president of the Cattlemen's Association, Jaime Lebot, and Cuban Ambassador to Ecuador Carlos Zamora.

In a statement to the press, Ramon Castro underscored the importance of international cooperation above all ideological differences.

The Cuban delegation, which will remain in Ecuador nearly 1 week, will carry out a full schedule of visits to sugar mills, cattle ranches, and nutritional research zones, and will meet with authorities of the agricultural and livestock raising sector.

VENEZUELA NEGOTIATING SALE OF 40,000 TONS OF STEEL

FL162100 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1812 GMT 16 May 85

[Text] Venezuela is negotiating the sale of 40,000 tons of steel to Cuba as part of its policy of diversifying the market for this product, which is the object of U.S. restrictions.

The private Sideroca and (Eliso) firms in Caracas are also negotiating with the Cuban Enterprise for the Import of Metals to sell Cuba 30,000 tons of seamless pipes.

RAMIREZ CRUZ CLOSES PEASANTS' DAY CEREMONY

FL180104 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 May 85

[Excerpt] Congratulations to Cuban farmers from the supreme leader of our revolution, Fidel Castro, were transmitted at the national ceremony commemorating 17 May, which is both the 26th anniversary of the Argarian Reform Law and the 24th anniversary of the founding of the National Association of Small Farmers [ANAP]. The ceremony was held in Ciego de Avila Province because the province won the ANAP's 1984 historic deeds emulation drive.

Jose Ramirez Cruz, alternate member of the PCC Politburo and ANAP president, made the closing speech at the ceremony, which was held at the Ethiopian revolution cooperative, in Ciro Redondo. Ramirez said that nationally 64 percent of all farmland is under the new forms of socialist production, and congratulated those who had joined up, exhorting them to improve the economic performance of Cuba's 1,400 cooperatives.